

Canada Hosts MTCR Meeting

From July 18 to 20, Canada hosted in Ottawa a meeting of countries participating in the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). The MTCR was established in 1987 to address concerns about the proliferation of missile systems capable of delivering nuclear weapons. The purpose of the July meeting was to examine ways of enhancing the implementation of the regime.

The MTCR consists of a set of guidelines concerning the export of certain missile-related equipment and technology. It is not a treaty, but rather an agreement among participating countries that each will apply the guidelines through its own national export controls.

A technical annex to the agreement lists all of the items covered by the MTCR and divides them into two categories. Category I contains the items of greatest sensitivity, such as complete rocket systems, complete subsystems, and guidance sets and rocket engines meeting certain specifications. Category II items include lightweight turbojet engines, launch and flight control systems, and selected propulsive substances.

The guidelines are such that items in Category I are rarely exported. The supplying government must be confident that the receiving government will use the items only for peaceful purposes, and that these purposes will not change after receipt. The receiving government must agree that the items will not be replicated, modified or transferred without the consent of the supplying government.

In the rare case where a Category I item is, in fact, exported, the supplying government assumes responsibility for taking steps to ensure that the item is put only to its stated use. Putting the burden on the supplier as well as the recipient is a unique initiative in arms control, and Canada believes that this is key to inhibiting missile proliferation.

The Ottawa meeting was attended by representatives of the seven original

MTCR partners: Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. It was also attended by representatives of the newest participants in the regime — Australia, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands — and by a Spanish representative.

In announcing the meeting, Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark stated that "Canada attaches great importance to the Missile Technology Control Regime as an essential component of our efforts to work for peace and security. It is important we do all that we can to ensure that destabilizing weapons systems do not spring up in new locations at a time when great progress is being made in improving East-West relations."

Participants examined the technical and administrative issues that countries face when managing the MTCR guidelines. They considered the completeness of the annex to the guidelines, as well as ways for participating countries better to exchange relevant information with one another. They agreed that such discussions were useful and that future meetings of an MTCR Technical Working Group should be held. To facilitate this process, a permanent contact point for the MTCR was agreed.

Participants also discussed concerns about the continued diffusion to countries in unstable regional situations of capabilities for the manufacture and use of increasingly sophisticated and highly destructive weaponry, including nuclear, chemical and conventional. They agreed that the MTCR has thus far proven effective in addressing the concerns for which it was intended. They noted, however, that the threat posed by the proliferation of equipment and technology capable of contributing to a missile system capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction remains. The MTCR partners renewed their call to all states to adhere to the missile technology guidelines, in the interests of international peace and stability. ■

Building Cooperative Security

The 45th session of the UN General Assembly opened in New York on September 18. The following are excerpts from a speech delivered by the Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the General Assembly in New York on September 26.

Security has ceased to be something to be achieved unilaterally. Security has ceased to be something to be attained through military means alone. Security has become multi-dimensional and it has become cooperative.

In a world where poverty and underdevelopment plague most of the planet, the developed world cannot pretend to be secure simply because it alone is prosperous. In an era of nuclear and chemical weapons, of ballistic missiles, of terrorism, of interdependent markets and economies, of diseases, the development of prosperity throughout the world is not a question of charity but of security.

That mandates continued emphasis on Official Development Assistance, on more open and freer markets, on innovative debt strategies. Those are not only economic or humanitarian actions; they are security imperatives.

In a world where the frontiers of states may be secure but the air, land and water is being poisoned, environmental action is also a fundamental security question. And in a period of burgeoning population and rapid industrialization, where winds and water know no borders, environmental security will only be achieved through cooperation...

A new concept of security also requires that we address more effectively the political and military tensions which persist in so many regions of the world.

While there is much to be done globally, I believe that a new focus on regional approaches to security is more necessary and more promising than ever. It is more necessary both because of the consequences of conflict arising from interdependence and because of